

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A coupler providing fluid communication between a fluid container and a tissue processor, the coupler comprising:
 - 5 a first cylindrical ring configured to mate in fluid communication with the tissue processor; and
 - a second cylindrical ring in fluid communication with the first cylindrical ring and configured to mate with the fluid container.
- 10 2. The coupler of claim 1, wherein the coupler is configured to provide bi-directional fluid communication between the fluid container and the tissue processor.
3. The coupler of claim 1, wherein the first and second cylindrical rings are separated by a wall.
- 15 4. The coupler of claim 3, further comprising a fluid conduit disposed within the first and second cylindrical rings and passing through the wall, thereby providing fluid communication from the fluid container to the tissue processor.
- 20 5. The coupler of claim 4, further comprising a retention cylindrical ring disposed within the second cylindrical ring.
6. The coupler of claim 5, wherein the retention cylindrical ring is disposed around the fluid conduit forming a cylindrical gap between the fluid conduit and retention
25 cylindrical ring.

7. The coupler of claim 6, wherein the fluid container includes tubing dimensioned to fit within the cylindrical gap.
- 5 8. The coupler of claim 3, wherein the wall includes at least one ventilation aperture disposed between the first and second cylindrical rings.
9. The coupler of claim 1, wherein the first cylindrical ring includes a diameter that is less than a diameter of the second cylindrical ring.
- 10 10. The coupler of claim 1, wherein the first cylindrical ring is configured to mate with a fluid connector on the tissue processor.
11. The coupler of claim 1, wherein the second cylindrical ring is configured to mate with a fluid container.
- 15 12. A tissue processing system, comprising:
a tissue processor;
a fluid container; and
20 a coupler that provides bi-direction fluid communication between the tissue processor and the fluid container.
13. The tissue processing system of claim 12, wherein the coupler comprises first and second cylindrical rings separated by a wall.

14. The tissue processing system of claim 13, wherein the coupler further comprises a fluid conduit disposed within the first and second cylindrical rings and passing through the wall, thereby providing fluid communication from the fluid container to the tissue processor.

5

15. The tissue processing system of claim 14, wherein the coupler further comprises a retention cylindrical ring disposed within the second cylindrical ring.

16. The tissue processing system of claim 15, wherein the retention cylindrical
10 ring is disposed around the fluid conduit forming a cylindrical gap between the fluid conduit and retention cylindrical ring.

17. The tissue processing system of claim 16, wherein the fluid container
includes tubing dimensioned to fit within the cylindrical gap.

15

18. The tissue processing system of claim 13, wherein the wall includes at least one ventilation aperture disposed between the first and second cylindrical rings.

19. The tissue processing system of claim 13, wherein the first cylindrical ring
20 includes a diameter that is less than a diameter of the second cylindrical ring.

20. The tissue processing system of claim 13, wherein the first cylindrical ring is configured to mate with the tissue processor.

21. The tissue processing system of claim 13, wherein the second cylindrical ring is configured to mate with the fluid container.

22. The tissue processing system of claim 12, further comprising a locking assembly for attaching the coupler in fluid communication with the tissue processor.

23. The tissue processor of claim 22, wherein the locking assembly comprises a handle and a fluid connector.

24. The tissue processor of claim 23, wherein the handle is used to displace the fluid connector to a position partially within the coupler.

25. The tissue processing system of claim 22, wherein the locking assembly and coupler are color coordinated.

26. A method of coupling a fluid container assembly with a tissue processor having one or more fluid container locking assemblies , comprising the steps of :

providing a fluid container assembly including a fluid container having a neck, a coupler attached to the neck and a cap attached to the coupler;

removing the cap from the coupler;

positioning the fluid container assembly adjacent to the tissue processor; and

providing fluid communication between the fluid container and the tissue processor.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the step of positioning the fluid container assembly adjacent to the tissue processor includes the steps of:

determining the type of fluid within the container; and

positioning the fluid container assembly adjacent an appropriate locking assembly.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of positioning the fluid container assembly adjacent an appropriate locking assembly includes the step of matching the color of the container with the color of a locking assembly.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein the step of providing fluid communication between the fluid container and the tissue processor includes the step of displacing a portion of a locking assembly relative to coupler.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of displacing a portion of a locking assembly relative to coupler includes the step of pulling a handle.

31. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of removing a seal from fluid container prior to removing the cap from the coupler.

32. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step removing a seal from a top end of the coupler prior to positioning the fluid container assembly adjacent to the tissue processor.